

**Department of the Army
Headquarters, United States Army
Training and Doctrine Command
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651-1047**

TRADOC Circular 385-05-1

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**Safety
TRADOC PORTABLE SPACE HEATER POLICY**

Summary. This circular establishes policies, procedures, and responsibilities for the use of portable space heaters in field training and operations. The next revision of TRADOC Reg 385-2 will incorporate this guidance.

Applicability. This circular is applicable to all TRADOC units, activities, and organizations.

Suggested improvements. The proponent for this circular is the TRADOC Safety Office. Send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) through channels to Commander, TRADOC (ATCS-S), 5 North Gate Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048. Suggested improvements may also be submitted using DA Form 1045 (Army Ideas for Excellence Program (AIEP) Proposal).

Availability. This publication is distributed solely through the TRADOC Homepage at <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/tpubs/cirndx.htm>.

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1. Purpose. This circular prescribes the responsibilities, policies, and procedures for the use of portable space heaters in field training and operations.

- 2. References.** Required and related publications are listed in [appendix A](#).
 - 3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms.** The [glossary](#) contains abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation.
 - 4. Responsibilities.** Commanders will ensure any portable space heater TRADOC activities, organizations, or units use meets the requirements of this circular.
 - 5. Overview.** Use of any portable space heater in field training and operations represents a high risk to soldiers if it is not set up and operated properly. Commercial portable heating devices are especially dangerous. Heaters pose both a fire hazard and a serious inhalation hazard from products of combustion and fuel vapors. If not properly vented, gases from the combustion of liquid fuels create an environment where, over time, low concentrations of these poisonous gases can cause death and permanent disability.
- 6. Policy and procedures.**
- a. Commercially procured space heaters are not authorized for use in Army field training or operations. TRADOC activities will procure and use only heaters the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center authorizes for Army use. Information regarding these heaters is available on their web site at <http://www.natick.army.mil/about/pao/pubs/warrior/99/septoct/hotstuff.htm>. Commanders will publish written standing operating procedures that embody the principles of this policy.
 - b. The following procedures apply to authorized space heaters:
 - (1) Have competent individuals, familiar with leak test procedures, set up heaters. Only personnel trained, tested, and licensed in accordance with (IAW) [AR 600-55](#), chapter 6, will operate heaters. The responsible unit fire or safety representative will inspect each heater before use.
 - (2) Set up, add fuel, use, and maintain heaters IAW the applicable Technical Manual (TM). Only use fuels the applicable TM specifies and approves for use.
 - (a) TM 9-4520-257-12&P, available on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) web site: https://akocomm.us.army.mil/usapa/tech/DR_pubs/DR_aa/pdf/070472.pdf.
 - (b) TM 10-4500-200-13, available on AKO at https://akocomm.us.army.mil/usapa/tech/DR_pubs/DR_aa/pdf/028377.pdf.
 - (3) The only authorized modifications to heaters are those that either a Modification Work Order or Safety of Use Message approve.
 - (4) The use of any non-vented heater is prohibited. Use the vent stack provided with the heater to vent the heater to the outside of the tent, structure, or shelter.
 - (5) Ensure all heaters are equipped with an emergency fuel shut-off.

(6) Set up heaters on a firm and level fireproof base, located in a marked area free of clothing or combustible material.

(7) Ensure a fire watch is on duty any time solid or liquid fueled heaters are in use. Brief the fire watch on procedures for fire fighting with appropriate extinguishing agent and early recognition of signs of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

(8) Do not operate heaters while unattended.

(9) If the fuel tank is a separate component of the space heater, locate it on the outside of the tent or shelter.

(10) Do not use CO detectors. Carbon monoxide detectors are not designed or proven for outdoor use and do not have a means for calibration. Used in an outdoor environment, CO detectors provide a false sense of safety and early warning.

Appendix A References

Section I Required Publications

AR 600-55

The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program (Selection, Training, Testing, and Licensing)

TM 9-4520-257-12&P

Operator's and Unit Maintenance Manual Heater, Space, Radiant, Large

TM 10-4500-200-13

Heaters, Space: Radiant Type, Portable and Immersion: Liquid Fuel Fired, for Corrugated Cans

Section II Related Publication

TRADOC Reg 385-2

TRADOC Safety Program

Glossary

Section I Abbreviations

AKO

Army Knowledge Online

CO	carbon monoxide
IAW	in accordance with
SBCCOM	U.S. Army Soldier Biological and Chemical Command
TM	Technical Manual

Section II

Terms

Carbon monoxide detectors

Carbon monoxide detectors are small electronic devices designed to detect low levels of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere. They are used as a backup, but not as a replacement for proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Emergency shut-off

A manual control used to restrict/stop the flow of fuel to the heater.

Fire watch

A person assigned the duty of ensuring operating heaters are functioning properly and to warn and evacuate designated area in case of emergency.

Vented

A system with exhaust gases and fumes released outside of premises/structure.

Non-vented

A system that allows release of heater exhaust gases and fumes inside premises/structure.

Portable space heater

Heaters that allow the user to position them in the most suitable location and are intended for temporary use. These heaters are designed for quick assembly/disassembly and are easily transported.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

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/signed/

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